

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph on page 35, lines 11-23, with the following paragraph.

-- An embodiment of the invention is a hydrogel matrix composed of a cross-linked polyacrylamide scaffolding containing ingredients that assist in the development and maintenance of an aqueous diffusion gradient in the nail plate. The matrix used in the prototypes utilized the formulation based on the Nangia patent (U.S. Pat. No. 5,196,[[3]]190), such as that described above. The matrix was made by dissolving the acrylamide, bis acrylamide, guar gum, glycerol and citric acid in the aqueous charge and then initiated and catalyzed polymerization with TEMED and sodium persulfate. The resulting gel was cross linked hydrogel polymer with aqueous moisture, glycerol and citric acid. The concentration of citric acid in the formulation was approximately 6 to 16% w/w after the adjustment of the final water content to approximately 50% by weight of the matrix using a dehumidifier. --